(ख) उनका प्रतिदिन किस हद तक उपयोग किया जाता है; और

(ग) इनके लागत-खर्च के सम्बन्ध में क्या स्थिति है ?

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाईटलर) : (क) वायुदूत के पास इस समय कलकत्ता बेस में दो डोर्नियर 228 तथा दो एफ-27 विमान है । इन विमानों द्वारा प्रचालित प्रति सप्ताह 41 सेवाओं में से 26 उड़ाने उत्तर-पूर्व क्षेत्र को तथा वहां से होकर जाती है ।

(ख) डोर्नियर 228 और एफ-27 विमान की उपयोगिता प्रति दिन क्रमश. $8\frac{1}{2}$ घंटे तथा $7\frac{1}{4}$ घंटे है ।

(ग) डोर्नियर 228 तथा एफ-27 विमान की प्रति घंटा लागत क्रमश 7,000/-रुपये और 9,663/-रुपये है ।

Pirate Attacks on Ships in Hoogly

2590. SHRI R SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pirates are attacking ships in the Hoogly;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these pirates come disguised as fishermen; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to meet the situation and see that ships are not looted by pirates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI. RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) A few reports of persons dressed as fishermen boarding ships to commit thefts have been reported.

(c) The security of vessels plying in the navigational channel leading to Calcutta Port is primarily the responsibility of the State Police authorities. The attacks on ships in the river Hoogly have been brought to the notice of State Government for arranging intensive patrolling in the river and for taking other security measures to prevent pilferages from the vessels. An expert group has been constituted by Government to suggest measures for better coordination among all concerned agencies i.e. Customs, Coast Guard, CISF, local police etc. with a view to tackle the problems faced by ships from unidentified crafts at Ports.

Mosquitoes as AIDS Carriers

2591 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been conducted in India to find out whether mosquitoes were positive AIDS carriers; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) There is no evidence that AIDS is transmitted through insect bites. Available epidemiological studies from United States, Europe and Africa also do not suggest that AIDS could be transmitted to humans by insects. No such studies are therefore, contemplated.

Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi in Israel

2592. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi was held in Israel from the 5th October, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the official participants who attended this exhibition and other non-governmental agencies/bodies?